

Claims 1-9, 13-15, 17, 18, 25-27 and 29-41 stand provisionally rejected as representing obviousness-type double patenting over claims of Application No. 09/875,264. Given the provisional nature of the rejection, the Examiner is urged to hold it in abeyance until the case is otherwise in condition for allowance.

The Examiner's attention is directed to the following copending applications:

i) Application No. 09/875,264, which is a continuation of Application No. 09/073,819, which issued as USP 6,306,388, which is a continuation of Application No. 08/640,444, which issued as USP 5,853,719.

- ii) Application No. 09/667,319, which is a divisional of Application No. 09/302,329, which issued as USP 6,387,701, which is a continuation-in-part of Application No. 09/073,819 and of the present case. (Submitted herewith is a PTO-1449 Form listing USP 6,387,701.)

The present case, as the Examiner is aware, is a 371 of PCT/US97/07317, which claims priority from Application No. 640,444, which issued as 5,853,719.

This application is submitted to be in condition for allowance and a Notice to that effect is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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